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Senator Obama stated that he will propose an across-the-board pay increase for educators, forgiving student loans, and repealing the GPO-WEP (Social Security penalty) for educators. He stated that NCLB is “one of the emptiest slogans in the history of American politics.” He finished with the following statement, “Support must come from parents and community members too. I am tired of hearing teachers getting all the blame for our collective failures.”

Former Governor

Huckabee was the only Republican who agreed to address the NEA assembly. He said he was surprised

more Republican candidates did not address the assembly. “While most Republican candidates are focusing on national security, radical Islamic jihadism is not the only threat to America’s future. If we do not have an educated young America coming forward, we will not have any kind of security.” He added that teachers should be compensated for professional development and recognized as “the most vital profession.”

Senator Biden promised a fully funded Head Start, access for all 3 & 4 year olds to preschool, attracting and retaining high quality

teachers, and higher salaries for all public school educators in his remarks. He offered proposals on improving access to college for middle-class and low income Americans.

This is not an endorsement of any candidate, but some sharing on where the candidates stand on educational issues. I hope as you begin to form your opinions and support for a candidate, please be sure to know where they stand on educational issues, and support them because of their position on educational issues

My First NEA Representative Assembly Experience

By Jen Lepard, NCOEA Secretary

This past July I attended the 150th NEA Representative Assembly, in Philadelphia, PA. This was my first time going as a delegate from Mansfield School Employees Association. While attending this assembly we were able to listen to the Democratic Presidential Candidates, and we had a special guest speaker, actor Richard Dreyfuss.

Every morning we had caucus meetings to take our stands on new

business items that were going to be presented at that day’s general session. In the evening we were able to network with other people from our state or meet other people from other states. One night I was given a wonderful opportunity to attend the grand opening of the Magna Carta at Independence Hall. During this exhibit our own NEA President Reg Weaver was honored and actor Richard Dreyfuss spoke

to us and allowed us to take pictures with him, which was something I won’t forget.

Experiencing how the democratic process works on a national level compared to the state level was great. We truly do have a voice and I was truly honored to be in Philadelphia as a voice for the teachers in Mansfield and the North Central District. This was definitely an opportunity I will never forget.

Greetings from NCOEA Vice-President, Patty Levingston



Hi, I’m Patty Levingston, interim Vice-President of NCOEA. I just wanted to take a few minutes to introduce myself to you, the members of NCOEA.

I am a graduate of Clear Fork High School and Ashland University with a Bachelor’s of Science in Education, Comprehensive Science. I have been teaching biology and chemistry for the past eight years at Madison Comprehensive H. S.



NCOEA members at the NEA RA: Front row kneeling, Joyce Skocic, Mt. Vernon; Jen Lepard, Mansfield; Rob Fetters, Mt. Vernon. Middle row Diana DeLauder, Shelby; Judy Novak, Mansfield; Donna Christman, Cardington-Lincoln; Parry Brokaw, Mansfield; Mary Jane Schlairet, Fredericktown; Patti Dice, Mt. Vernon; Becky Mayer, Ashland; Brad Strong, Mansfield. Back row, Paul Kauffman, Mid-Ohio; Chris Swank, Retired; Sean Sheldon & Brad Strong, Mansfield

I have served as a building representative for my local for about four years. I have also served as a Richland County representative for NCOEA for the past four years. I was appointed vice-president after the resignation of Donna Christman, who has moved on the train with NEA to become a Labor Relations Consultant.

I’m excited to have this opportunity to serve North Central as

vice-president. I will do what I can to maintain and improve the great working relationship among the members and help lead NCOEA into the future. I will serve in this position until an election will be held at the November NCOEA RA to fill the remainder of the 2 year term. At that time, I will be running for this position.

I hope everyone had a great summer, and that you have an enjoyable school year.